

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-10 TRSE-00 FRB-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01

L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: PAPERWORKERS STRIKE AT ABITIBI PLANTS

REF: VANCOUVER 509 (NOTAL)

1. CANADIAN PAPERWORKERS UNION (CPU) HAS DISCARDED
EARLIER TACTIC OF COORDINATING EASTERN AND BRITISH
COLUMBIA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BY AUTHORIZING STRIKES
AHEAD OF B.C. JULY 16 STRIKE DEADLINE BY
SOME 2,300 WORKERS EMPLOYED BY ABITIBI PAPER COMPANY
PLANTS IN ONTARIO (THUNDER BAY, SAULT ST. MARIE AND
IROQUOIS FALLS). NATIONAL CPU LEADERSHIP WAS PERSUADED
BY LOCAL UNIONS TO APPROVE STRIKE ACTION (DESPITE
LIMITED STRIKE FUND RESOURCES SINCE UNION DISAFFILIATED
FROM U.S. BASED UNITED PAPERWORKERS), TO EXERT PRESSURE
ON MANAGEMENT TO NEGOTIATE SINGLE CONTRACT FOR ALL
NINE ABITIBI PLANTS IN CANADA IN CONTRAST TO EMPLOYER'S
PREFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL PLANT BARGAINING. UNTIL
SCOPE OF BARGAINING UNIT IS SETTLED CPU WAGE DEMAND
FOR C DOLS 2 PER HOUR INCREASE IN ONE YEAR CONTRACT
AMOUNTING TO 35 PERCENT RISE IN AVERAGE WAGE RATES
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WILL PROBABLY NOT RECEIVE EMPLOYER COUNTER OFFER.

2. COMMENT: PRIOR TO CURRENT ROUND OF BARGAINING CPU
PRESIDENT HENRI LORAIN TOLD LABATT THAT HE HOPED TO
LIMIT SETTLEMENTS TO C DOLS 1.00 PER HOUR IN ORDER NOT TO
WIDEN CURRENT 80 CENTS HOURLY LEAD THAT CANADIANS NOW HAVE
OVER U.S. PAPERWORKERS. APPARENTLY UNION MEMBERSHIP
PRESSURE RESULTED IN C DOLS 2 DEMAN IN EASTERN CANADA
AND C DOLS 1.50 IN COORDINATED BARGINING WITH WOODWORKERS
AND PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS UNIONS IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA. JOHNSON

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NNN

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